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## **CLAIMS**

We claim:

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1	1. A method comprising:		
2	creating a scaled-down representation of input to a compute-intensive		
3	application;		
4	calculating a computing requirement based on the scaled-down		
5	representation;		
6	calculating a turn-around time and an actual cost to a customer to run the		
7	compute-intensive application with the input, on one or more processors, based		
8	on the calculated computing requirement; and		
9	sending the turn-around time and the actual cost to the customer's client		
0	software.		
1	2. The method of claim 1 wherein the compute-intensive application		
2	is to perform computer graphics rendering.		
1	3. The method of claim 1 wherein the compute-intensive application		
2	is to perform logic simulation.		
1	4. The method of claim 1 wherein the scaled-down representation of		
2	the application input is generic to a class of applications.		
1	5. The method of claim 1 wherein the scaled-down representation of		
2	the application input includes the geometry, lights, number of triangles, textures,		
3	shading method, camera, ray-tracing, anti-aliasing, and motion-blur of an		
4	underlying scene.		

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the cost is in terms of input units.

actual cost are transmitted over an internet to the customer's client software.

The method of claim 1 further wherein the turn-around time and

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1	8.	The method of claim 7 wherein the input units are logic gates.

- 9. The method of claim 7 wherein the input units are image frames.
- 10. A system comprising:

an application-specific module to model input data;

a heuristic modeler module coupled to the output of the applicationspecific module, to calculate a computing requirement; and

a run-time calculator module coupled to the output of the heuristic modeler module, to compute a turn-around time and an actual cost to run the application on one or more processors.

- 11. The system of claim 10 wherein the modules are to communicate with each other over an internet.
- 12. The system of claim 10 wherein the application-specific module is to generate a scaled-down representation of the data to include the geometry, lights, number of triangles, textures, shading method, camera, ray-tracing, antialiasing, and motion-blur of an underlying scene.
  - 13. An article of manufacture comprising:

a machine readable medium containing instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause a machine to perform operations comprising:

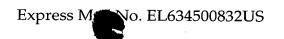
calculating a computing requirement based on a scaled-down representation of input to a compute-intensive application, the representation having been created at a customer's machine;

calculating a turn-around time and an actual cost to the customer to run the compute-intensive application with the input, on one or more processors, based on the calculated computing requirement; and

providing the turn-around time and the actual cost to the customer's client software.

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- 14. The article of manufacture of claim 13 wherein the medium includes further instructions to create the scaled-down representation of the application input as being generic to a class of applications.
- 15. The article of manufacture of claim 13 wherein the medium includes further instructions to create the scaled-down representation of the application input as having the geometry, lights, number of triangles, textures, shading method, camera, ray-tracing, anti-aliasing, and motion-blur of an underlying scene.
- 16. The article of manufacture of claim 13 wherein the medium includes further instructions to enable the scaled-down representation of the input to be received over an internet from the client software.
- 17. The article of manufacture of claim 13 wherein the medium includes-further-instructions-to-enable the-turn-around time and actual cost to be transmitted over the internet to the customer's client software.
- 18. The article of manufacture of claim 13 wherein the medium includes further instructions to calculate the cost in terms of input units.
- 19. The article of manufacture of claim 18 wherein the medium includes further instructions to calculate the cost in terms of input units being logic gates.
  - 20. The article of manufacture of claim 18 wherein the medium includes further instructions to calculate the cost in terms of input units being image frames.